

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

ACDA-19 IO-13 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 NIC-01 EURE-00 RSR-01

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P 031721 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6082

INFO CINCEUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN PRIORITY

USELM LIVE OAK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION BERLIN PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMLM BERLIN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09527

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, MOPS, WB, UR, GE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED US RESPONSE TO US ASSERTIONS ON USMLM

REF: A. BERLIN 1106; B. BONN 9377; C. USAREUR 30163 OZ

JUNE 73; D. STATE 129128

1. WHEN INFORMED AT TRIPARTITE MEETING ON JULY 3 OF PROPOSED US REPLY TO SOVIET STATEMENT ON SURVEILLANCE OF USMLM, UK AND FRENCH REPS NOTED THAT THEIR MISSIONS HAD NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO UNDUE HARASSMENT IN RECENT MONTHS AND REQUESTED THAT THE US RESPONSE BE KEPT AS LOW KEY AS POSSIBLE. THE UK REP (CROMARTIE) SAID THE BRITISH HOPED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE US AND SOVIETS WOULD NOT BE
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WIDENED TO AFFECT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OTHER ALLIED MLMS, AND ASKED THAT ANY RESPONSE BE COUCHED IN TERMS CERTAIN NOT TO CONTINUE THE DEBATE ANY FURTHER. THE FRENCH REP (DE BELLESCIZE) AGREED, SUGGESTING THAT PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY USMLM MIGHT BE THE RESULT OF GDR ANNOYANCE OVER THE FACT THAT THE US HAD NOT YET MOVED TO ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN. BELLESCIZE NOTED THAT THE OPERATIONS OF THE FRENCH MISSION HAD ACTUALLY BEEN FREE FROM HARASSMENT IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

2. IN LINE WITH THEIR REQUEST FOR A LOW KEY RESPONSE, UK AND FRENCH REPS WONDERED IF THE CHANCES FOR A SOVIET RESPONSE MIGHT NOT BE LESSENER BY OMITTING THE SECOND AND THIRD SENTENCES OF THE PRESENT DRAFT REPLY. THE UK REP SUGGESTED THAT THE SAME POINT WOULD BE MADE WITHOUT THIS PASSAGE, WHICH THE SOVIETS MIGHT OBJECT TO AS A ONE- SIDED INTERPRETATION OF THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT. THE US REP SAID HE SAW SOME LOGIC IN THIS SUGGESTION AND AGREED TO RECOMMEND IT TO HIS AUTHORITIES.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE AGREE WITH THE UK AND FRENCH REPS THAT OUR APPROACH TO MILITARY LIAISON MISSION QUESTIONS IN COMING MONTHS SHOULD BE TO KEEP MATTERS IN AS LOW A KEY AS POSSIBLE. BOTH THE SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS ARE BOUND TO BE SENSITIVE TO ANY ATTEMPTS, REAL OR IMAGINED, ON THE ALLIED SIDE TO STRESS TOO MUCH CONTINUATION OF AN OCCUPATION REGIME THROUGH EXISTENCE OF THE MLM'S AT A TIME WHEN THE GDR IS BEING VERY CAREFUL ABOUT EXERTING ITS PEROGATIVES OF SOVEREIGNTY. THUS, WHILE WE WOULD AT ALL TIMES BE IN FAVOR OF MAKING CLEAR TO THE SOVIETS OUR VIEW OF THE LEGAL SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE MISSIONS, WE WOULD SHARE THE UK AND FRENCH VIEW THAT WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO PROVIDE THE SOVIETS WITH A PRETEXT FOR FURTHER EXPRESSING A PREJUDICIAL POINT OF VIEW. FOR THIS REASON, WE WOULD RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF THE DELETIONS TO THE US REPLY PROPOSED BY THE UK AND FRENCH REPS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT' S CONCURRENCE IN ABOVE CHANGE.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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